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FROM

A Prelate to a Pre la doith at

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SIR,

7 Hen I heard of the Sighness of the Late Illustrious Princes, whom I had never fail'd to recommend to God, in my Daily Prayers, and that your falf was Her Confessor, I could not but hope. that at least on Her Death-bed, you would have dealt faithfully with Her.

But when I had read the SERMON, you Preach'd at Her FUNERAL, I was heartily griev'd, to find my felf difap-pointed, and God knows, how bitterly I bewail'd in Secret the manner of Her Death; and Reflecting again and again, on your Conduct of Her Soul, methought a Spirit of Slumber seem'd to have posses'd you, otherwise it was impossible for one, who to well under food the Duty of a Spiritual Guide, as your felf, who had such bappy Opportunities, and fuch figual Encourogements, to Practise it in Her Case, should forgrofty fail in your Performance, as either to overlook, or wilfully to omit that which all the World faw besides your felf, and expected from you, and was of. great Importance to Her Salvation.

you had been many years a Parish Priest, and exercised your Function with good Repute movement could be better vers'd, in the Office for the Visitation of the Sick than your self, and the Sick Person was no stranger to just, and you very well knew the sick than

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But

As you had a full Knowledge of the Ferfon, and of your Duty, so you had bappy Opportunities to have put that Duty in

Practife.

You had free and frequent Accesses to Her, at your Pleasure; and on Monday, when the flattering Disease occasion'd some Hopes, but especially on the next Day, the Festival of Christ's Birth, when those Hopes were rais'd to a kind of Assurance, p. 25. and continued so till Night, the peculiar Favour of Heaven seem'd to have indulg'd you, all that inestimable Day, on purpose, that you might carefully employ it, in clearing Her Conscience with God and Man, and in perfecting Her Preparations for Eternity; which had She recover'd, were as Necessary to render Her Life Holy and Happy, as Her Death.

Tour Joy enduring but a Day, and that Day being closed with a dismal Night, you gave Her the Warning of Her approaching Death, which you say She received, with a Courage agreeable to the strength of Her Faith, p. 26. You were set a Watchman over Her, and if you did not give Her due Warning of Her Sin also, especially when you had so proper a time for doing it, and saw Her so capable of receiving it,

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God will require Her Blood at your bands.
You had this Advantage also, which is often wanting to Sick Persons, that in the Visits you made Her, you did not find Her Delirious, and the Orders She gave for Prayers, p. 24. Her calling for Prayers a third time, when She fear'd She had slept the time before, the many most Christian things She said, p. 26. Her appointing Psalms, a Chapter concerning Trust in God, and a Sermon more than once, to be read by Her, p. 29. are signs She was not, at least that She was not so, in the Intervals, wherein you Officiated by Her.

Tis true She was often drowzy, but She was fo very fenfible of Her drowziness, that She call'd for Prayers before the time, for fear that She should not be long compos'd, p.28. and whenever you apply'd your self to

Her, She was wakeful enough.

You say indeed, p. 27. That at the Receiving the Holy Eucharist, She found Her self in a dozing Condition, but add, that She p esently stirr'd up Her attention, and from thenceforth to the end of the Office, had a perfect Command of Her Understanding, and was intent upon the Great Wo k She was going about: And methinks, Sir, if you had been jealous over Her Soul, with a Godly Jealous,

Jealoufy, when you gave Her the Viaticum, and faw that She had then a perfett Command of ber understanding, and that she was intent; you had another fit Season offer'd you by Heaven, to have minded Her of any, but probable defects in Her Repentance, and to have Exhorted Her to a short

Supplemental Confession.

Nay to Her very last, she seem'd not wholly uncapable of any pious Intimations you might have given her, for her Understanding continued to that degree, That nothing of Impertinence, scarce a number of disjointed words were beard from Her; infomuch, that she said a devout AMEN, to that very Prayer in which her Pious Soul was recommended to that God who gave it, p. 49. So that your own Sermon will testify against you, that you had very happy Opportunities of directing her Conscience; I must add, that you had as Signal Encouragements also.

You had to deal with a Person, whose Knowledge and Wisdom you justly Commend, p. 3. and who might easily have been Convinced, if in any one Instance, she had

mistaken her Duty.

You had to deal with one, whose Piety, Charity, and Humility, you in many re-A 4 spects fpects deservedly Magnify, p. 10. I only wish you had added ber Justice also, to have made Her Character compleat; However, those three Virtues were powerful Inducements, to have us'd a Conscienci-

ous Freedom with Her.

You had, as appears by the Characters you give Her, a Pious, Charitable, Humble Soul under your Care, a Subject most happily dispos'd to work on, who had always been very Reverent and Attentive at Sermons, p. 9. who had an Aversens's to Flattery, p. 12. and who would thankfully have received any Pious, or Charitable, or Humble Admonition you had given Her.

I now befeech you, Sir, to spend a few thoughtful Minutes, in comparing your Performance, as you your self represent it, in your own Sermon, with your Knowledge, with the Opportunities and Encouragements you had, and with the Rubrick of the

Church.

You mention a very Religious Saying which fell from Her, That she had Learn'd from Her Touth a true Doctrine, That Repentance was not to be put off to a Death-bed, p. 26. But it was your Duty, considering the Deceitfulness of all Hearts, and the usual Infirmities and Forgetfulness, and Indifposed-

sposedness of Sick Persons, to have Supplied all Her Oversights and Omissions, and to have Examin'd the Truth of Her Repentance, whether She truly Repented of Her Sins, and where you knew any thing of Moment which had escap'd Her Observation, you ought to have been Her Remembrancer.

I therefore challenge you to answer before God and the World, Did you know of
no weighty Matter which ought to have true
bled this Princeffer Confidence, the at prefent the feem'd not to have felt it, and for
which, you ought to have mov'd her to a special
Confesion, in order to Absolution?

Were you fatisfied. That the was in Charity with all the World? Did you know of no Enmity between her and her Father, of no Variance between her and her Sifter?

Did you know of no Person who ever offended ber, whom he was to forgive? Did you know of no one Person whom he had offended, and of whom he was to aft Forgive ness? Did you know of no one hijny or Wrong he had done to any Man, to whom he was to make Amends, to the uttermost of her Power.

Was the whole Revolution manag'd with that purity of Intention, that perfect Innocence, that exact Justice, that tender Charity, and that unreproachable Veracity, that there was nothing amiss in it; no remarkable Failings, nothing that might

deserve one penitent Reflection?

You cannot, you dare not fay it; and if you should, out of your own mouth I can condemn you: for you your self in your serious Intervals, have pass'd as severe a Censure on the Revolution, as any of those they call Jacobites could do; you have said, more than once, That it was ell as swrighteous thing; Why did you not then deal sincerely with this dying Princes, and tell her so, when you must needs be sensible, that in Steering her Conscience wrong, you Ship wreck'd your own.

If then, Sir, you consider The bappy Oppertunities you have lost, the Signal Encouregements you have neglected, and the Tremendous Hazard to which you have exposed
the precious Soul of this Illustrious Princess by your Unfaithfulness; If you lay to
Heart how much you have acted against
your own Knowledge and Convictions,
what ill Example you have given to the
Clergy, what Scandal to all good Men,
what

what Wounds to our most holy Religion, and what Occasions to the Enemy to Blaspheme, what have you to do, but to testify your Repentance, before God and the World, and to mourn in Sackcloth and Ashes, all the Remainder of your

Days.

What was it Sir, that mov'd you to act thus notoriously against your own Conscience? Was it the sear you had, of losing the Favour of the Gourt, which rather made you venture the Indignation of Heaven, even that sear was in vain, for it had been no offence against the Government, to have perswaded a dying Daughter, to have bestowed one Compassionate Prayer on her afflicted Father, had he been never so Unnatural, though the Case was here quite contrary, for He was one of the tenderest Fathers in the World.

Befides, her Illustrious Consort, who manifested so very great and worthy a Passion for her, would, I dare say, have had nothing omitted, which might have been thought conducible to her Eternal Happiness; and a Consciencious Faithful Consessor, especially on the Deathful Consessor, especially on the Deathbed, is One of a Thousand, who will always be desired and valued, and rever'd.

Believe

Believe me, Sir, you have given the World reason to conclude, that your own Conscience missave you, being sensible, That in Reproving ber, you must have Reproved your self.

You fay, She was fo Judicious and Dewont a Saint, the degenerate Church of Rome can by no means her us, p. 9. but furely it had been Prudence in you, to have wav'd that Comparison, for should you chance hereafter to blame that Church for Canonizing Thomas a Beeket, for which the really is blame worthy, 'tis obvious for her, to make this appropriate Reply to you, that 'tis as justifiable in her to Saint Justifiable as for you to Saint Just to Dat

Too tell us he was one whom I am well of-fired had all the Duty in the World, for o-ther Relations, which ofter Long, and Labo-tions Confidention, the judged confident, with ligations to God, and to her Com-

p. 15. The Confideration then which she us'd, to reconcile her Judgment to the Repolation, was it forms, Long and Laborius, notwithstanding the affittance of her new Casuists, it being no easy matter to overcome the contrary Remonstrances of Nature, ture, and of her own Conscience, and to unlearn those Evangelical Maxims, which were carefully taught her, by the Faithful Guides of her Youth, others might begin to instill opposite Principles into her, others might Consirm her, but the finishing strokes were reserved for you.

Relations, we may guess that you mean ber Royal Father, Mother-in-Law, and Brother, but you are at liberty to say, you mean any other Relations, if you please, you give us ambiguous and general words only, when you should have given us most

express and particular.

All the Duty in the World is a comprehensive term, but wherein, Sir, did any pari of all that Duty appear? Why are you not so just to her, and to your self, as to give us some of those compassionate and melting Expressions of Filial Duty, which show'd from her on that Subject? Why do you not produce some instances of her Mildness and Mercifulness to her Enemies, p. 16. and whom you knew she treated as such, though their Crime was their being her Father's Friends, they would have been much for her Honour; would have given great Satisfaction to all good.

B People,

People, would have convinc'd the World, that the manner of her Death had been in all respects truly Christian, p. 23. would have been much for your own Reputation, and much for the Credit of the Revolution, in which you are as great a Zealot as a Gainer.

If you were so well assured of all that Duty, what dreadful Negligence were you guilty of, in not putting her in mind of it on her Death-bed? Methinks, Sir, you are not just to her, when you give us Instances of her Charity to several sorts of indigent People, and to Strangers, which all the World knew, and give us no Instances of even her Natural Assertion to her 'own Royal Father, of which all the World doubted; when had you suggested that Duty to her, as you ought to have done, she would have shew'd herself a tender-hearted Daughter, and would have been extreamly Assisted for having been Instrumental to her Father's Calamity.

It is far from my Intentions here to dispute the Lawfulness of the Revolution, yet I may say, That I never met with any so Bigotted to it, who would undertake to justifie all the part which she, as a Daughter, had in it; and I am

persuaded that it would mightily puzzle you, to tell us in particular, what those Obligations were, which she had to God, and to her Country, which were inconsistent

with her Filial Duty?

You complain, p. 17. Great is our loss of a most Pious Queen, in an Atheistical, and Prophane Age, in which the Seeds of Impiety, which have been sowing for some years, have sprung up in greater plenty there ever; But, Sir, did not your Heart sinite you, when you uttered this Complaint? For I would fain know whether any thing has more contributed to render the Age Atheistical and Prophane, or more promoted that fatal Plenty, than the Prevarications of your self, and your Time-serving Brethren?

You take notice more than once, of the shortening the Life of this Illustrious Princess, that she was taken away in the midst of her days, p. 18. at Thirty three years old, p. 32. in the slower of her Age, p. 33. but you take no notice of that which most probably occasion dit, for the Fifth Commandment is not to be evaded, Honour thy Father and thy Mother, (which is the first Commandment with Promise) that it may be well with Thee, and thou mayes live

tong on the Earth, and if any, even Princes, for the Command makes no Exception, do visibly Dishonour Father and Mother, and their Lives are cut short, the very Command of God assigns the Cause of it.

You fay p. 30. That having like David ferv'd her own Generation, by the will of God she fell ofleep; and if you had been a true Nathan to her, the Similitude had been very proper, but her Virtue having, like David's, suffer'd an Eclipse, you took no care that it should break out again, in

as Conspicuous a Repentance.

You mention the strong Hopes you have of ber everlafting Felicity, p. 32. but as you managed her Conscience, you should rather have called them, frong Presumptions; I have Hopes of her everlasting Felicity as well as you, tho' not at all grounded on your Guidance, but on the Infinite Mercy of God, who makes most gracious Abatement for all our Infirmities, and for all the degrees of Excufability we can plead; and when I confider her Conjugal Love and Awe, the horrid mifrepresentations made to her, of her Royal Father, the various and fludied Trains laid to delude her, the plaufible pretences of Religion, of Scripture, and of the Glory

Glory of God, which she heard daily inculcated, and the unfaithfulness of her Guides, who had wholly possessed her Ear, together with her subdued Will, her soft and tender Sen, and Temper, her well-meaned, tho' misguided Zeal, the Piety of her Inclinations, and her ardent Desire that her Soul might be without Spot presented to God, which she manifested in ordering that Collect to be read twice every day, p. 24. I have Hopes, that God accepted of her general Repentance, and by a super-essence of Grace supply'd the desects of it.

What therefore I have said, is not in the least to derogate, from any of her Virtues, but to Expostulate with you, for being the occasion, that they did not shine out in their full Lustre; and whether such Shepherds may not be said to feed themselves rather than the Flock, whether your Behaviour to this dying Princess, does not reach those Expressions of the Prophet, Of crying Peace, Peace, when there is no Peace, and of daubing with untemper'd Mortar, whether it is not Healing a Spiritual Hurt slightly; Let all my Reverend Brethren of the Clergy, who are untainted with the Latitudinarian Leven, B. 2

whether they are Possessed of their Be-

Before I take my leave, I cannot but Remark that spiteful Reflection, you beflow on the poor Sufferers, which you thus express; And Domestick Discontent reigning in those, whose Resentments are

fronger than their Reason. p. 18.

The Persons whom you thus Characterise, will tell you, That 'tis much easier for you to Revise their Reasons, than to Answer them, of which you are so very sensible, that no one labours more industriously than your self to debar them.

the liberty of the Press.

As for their Refentments, the greatest they have at present, are against your self, not for your Promotion, which I know none of them that envy, but for your misguidance of that Illustrious Princess, whose everlasting Happiness they Pray'd for, and whose untimely Death they deplore.

In the mean time, Sir, none of that Dirt, which you cast at the faithful Remmant will stick, but will recoyl on your self; and I have reason to believe, that That Great Prince, whom such as you, had rather flatter, than imitate, doe esteem

them .

them at least Honest Men, and indeed in their being tender of their former Oaths, they have followed that Illustrious Example, which he himself set them; for there was a time, when he being Prince of Orange, had the Sovereignty of the Seven Provinces offered him, and offered him by a Power which would have put him into Possession, and he rejected that Tempting Offer with a most Heroick and Christian Answer, to this purpose; That he had lately taken an Oath to be True to his Country, which he would by no means Violate.

It was Wisdom, not that which is Earthly, but that which is from Above, which taught the Prince of Orange, to prefer a good Conscience before a Kingdom, a Blisful and Eternal Crown, before one that was Vexatious and Transitory; and may the same Divine Wisdom in his prefent Circumftances, vouchfafe to be his Councellour; If then, he when a Prince was fo Consciencious in observing his Oath to the States, can he have an ill Opinion of Priefts, and of Bishops, who are alike Consciencious in observing their Oaths? Tis improbable he should, unless he has fuch Confessors as your 'felf, to exasperate B.4

him against them; but from such Confes-

fors, I befeech God to deliver him.

God of his Great Mercy grant, That what I have written, may awaken you out of your Shunber, and conduce to your Repentance, the only Preservative against all those VVoes, which are denounced against careless Shepherds.

March 29: 1695. Tour faithful Friend in Our Common Saviour.

FINIS.

A

LETTER

FROM

Mr. D——el

TO

Dr. TILLOTSON.

Y OU cannot but see by this time, the Mischiess following to the Publick, from Persons venturing to Practise on private and singular Opinions, in Cases of Great Consequence. Especially where different from those not only of their Brethren, but those also of the Catholick Church in those times when they were the most Competent Judges of such Opini-

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Opinions, and when withal they were liable to the least Temptations of Judging This, if well thought of, corruptly. were alone sufficient to make you Cautious of being the Aggressors in the now defign'd Schism, in Erecting another Altar against the hitherto acknowledg'd-Altar of your Deprived Fathers and Bre-If their .Places be not vacant, your new Confecrations must by the Nature of the Spiritual Monarchy, be perfeetly Null, and Invalid, and Schismati-cal. The Electors of Germany have a Power in the Intervals of the Empire; But if, after having fairly and legally Chosen One, they presume to set up Another, themselves will be Traytors to the fundamental Constitution of the Empire; and the Person so Chosen, cannot by the same Constitution be look'd on as a Second Emperour, but as a Rebel. St. Cyprion by those Principles which were fundamental to that Correspondence which was maintain'd in the Catholick Church in his time, admits this Confequence in our Spiritual Monarchy in City Jurisdictions. That he who is Ordained in the fecond Place, is not Secundus, but Nullus; That he erects Altar against Altar, and

by doing fo, cuts himfelf off from the Communion of which he was before a Member. Nor was this Schilm Suppos'd to be only from the individual Church where the Schism was made, but as Catholick Communion was then maintain'd, from the whole Catholica Church. Every particular Bishop was then oblig'd, as he would be true to the Principle of Cathofick Communion, to maintain the Discipline of all the Churches in the World, by disowning their Schismaticks. He was neither to receive any to Communion on the Communicatory Letters of the Schismatick, nor to give Communicatory Letters to him. If he did otherwife, himself was supposed, by that very Act of Communicating with the Schismatick, to have cut himself off from Catholick Communion, as well as the Principal Schifmatick. He could not own himfelf one with one who was divided, without owning himself as divided also. This is as clear in the Disputes with Fabius of An. tioch and Martian of Arles, as the other is in the Disputes concerning Novation of Rome, and Felicifimus of Carthage. In the Case of Athanasius the same Principles were own'd as the Rules of the Catholick Church

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Church. He was Banished by the Secular Power, and not only fo, but by the Ecclefiafticks also in the Synod of Tyre. This Banishment continued for several years, in which time Three Anti-Bishops were fet up against him, Lucius, and George, and Gregory, yet neither the Clergy nor the People of Alexandria would ever own them. No, notwithstanding the at last Bloody Persecutions of Constantins to force them to it in the latter end of his Reign, mention'd by Athanafus, Lucifer, and Hilary. And the whole Catholick Church of that Age did so second them, as that he was not looked on as a good Catholick who either own'd the Communion of those Anti-Bishops, or favoured the Condemnation of Athanafus. And indeed the whole Dispute of that time concerning Athanafus, was not with those who openly own'd the Condemn'd Doctrine of Arius, but with those who fecretly favoured his Caufe, and who had receiv'd to Communion fome of those who were Condemn'd by the Nicene Fathers. Their whole Concern for a Bishop of Alexandria was to Ratify their Reception in that fame Church, whose condemnatory Sentence had been 'Confirm'd by the

the Council, on account of that general Obligation incumbent on all Bishops to Ratify the Acts of ev'ry particular Bishop in Affairs concerning his own Jurishication. But as to the Case I am speaking of, the whole Catholick Church took the same Course in Condemning the Schismatical Bishops made by the Donatists at Rome, and in Africa, in neither Communicating with the Schismatical Bishops themselves, nor with any who did Com-

municate with them.

If therefore you will pretend to be Bishop's instead of our Deprived Fathers, you must insist on something that may by our Common Principles, or those of the First and Purest Catholick Church, difanul the Episcopal Authority receiv'd by your Predeceffors. And what is there that you can pretend in this present Case? Your selves have own'd them for these years past, so that it is now too late so much as to pretend any Invalidity in your first Consecration. Your felf, as Dean of Canterbury, must have promised Canonical Obedience to your then Arch-Bishop. You must owe it still, and have promised it to him as your Metropolitan, even in your new Preferments. And that part

part of your Canonical Obedience will still Oblige you, at least neither to make or countenance any Schisin against him within his own Jurisdiction. Nor can you own the Lay pretended Law as finfficient to discharge you in Conscience from your promised Canonical Obedie ce. If you do, you make it impossible for the Catholick Church to fublift as Diffinct and Independent on the State, which will fundamentally overthrow the very Being of a Church, as a Society, and be confequently more Heretical than many other Propositions which are of worse Repute with inconfidering Persons. It puts it in a King James's Power to Ruine our Church by an Act of State. I am fure my Lord of London particularly protested against King James's Court, as incompetent Judges of his Spiritual Power. And I cannot think that if he had Depriv'd all our Bishops, or if a Majority of them had then as now, gone from their Principles, and not only fo, but had taken upon them by a Majority of Sufirages to Deprive their fewer Constant Brethren, that you would have thought our Clergy thereby discharg'd from their Canonical Obedience Promised, as it hath been by you, by express

express Stipulations, or our People from their Duty to Communicate with them, though fortified by no accessary Oaths or Promises. You see what might have been suggested, though you had attempted to Deprive our Constant Holy Fathers by Ecclefiaftical Cenfures. At prefent you have no fuch thing to pretend, nothing but what was notoriously supposed False in the Doctrine of the Primitive Catholick Church, nothing but what, if once admitted, betrays the very Being of the Church, as a Society Independent on the State, and puts it in the Power of Perfecuting Princes to Ruine our Religion. We have born with all Scandals on our Part, rather than break from your Communion. If you will cut your selves from us by Acts of your own, we cannot help it. Only we must Appeal to our Common Mafter and your own Consciences, That you Erect Altars against those Altars which you have own'd your felves, and can pretend no justifiable Cause for your not continuing to own them. You that have fuch Candor for Adversaries, who can give no fecurity of continuing yours upon any Contessions whatsoever: For God's Sake, have fome for your Brethren,

thren, who have Principles obliging them in Conscience to continue yours, if you cut not off your selves from their Communion. No more, but that I am, till you form the Schifm,

Oxford, May 12. 1691. Tour Affectionate, tho'
Suffering Brother,

H. D.

FINIS.

